Sex Offender Charged in Sandy Murder

By Mike Carter
Tribune Staff Writer

First-degree murder charges were filed Monday against a 26-year-old Utah State Prison inmate in the Feb. 22 murder of a Jordan High School honors student whose body was found two days later in a root cellar in Sandy City.

The charges allege Kenneth Earl Nelson, 986 Diamond Way (9900 South), killed 17-year-old Larry K. Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darwin R. Ray, 607 E. 9670 South, while trying to rob the youth. Nelson is also charged with aggravated robbery in the complaint, which was signed Monday morning by Sandy City Police Detective W.L. Jeffrey before 5th Circuit Judge Raymond S. Uno.

Mr. Ray's body was found Feb. 24 by a surveying crew in an abandoned root cellar at 9669 S. 700 East. The youth apparently had been tied up, strangled and stabbed in the throat, according to an autopsy. His right ring finger also had been cut from his hand, police said.

Held in Prison

Nelson, a convicted sex offender, is currently being held in medium security at the Utah State Prison after the Board of Pardons revoked his parole Saturday.

In a press conference Monday in the offices of Salt Lake County Attorney Ted Cannon, Sandy Mayor Larry Smith said the filing of the charges against Nelson culminated a 1,500 man-hour investigation by Sandy police detectives.

Asked to comment on the possibility of accomplices in the murder, Mr. Cannon would say only that no other charges have been filed in the killing. He said the investigation into Mr. Ray's death is "fairly complete."

Personal Effects

The robbery charge filed against Nelson stems from "certain personal effects" which the victim apparently had in his possession at the time of the murder, Mr. Cannon said. He would not comment on what might have been stolen or if it had been recovered.

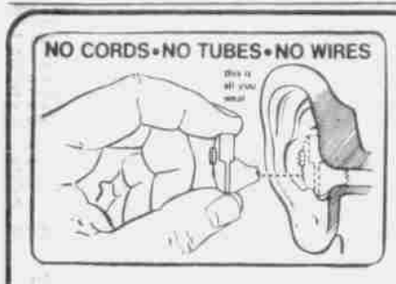
Nor would Mr. Cannon say whether or not there might have been a sexual motive in the killing, saying only that Nelson "has not been charged with any sexual activity."

The Tribune has learned that police obtained a search warrant on March 4 with which detectives obtained samples of the suspect's blood, head and pubic hair. The samples were turned over to the state crime lab at Weber State College for comparison with pub ic ha irs found both on the outside and inside of the victim's clothing, according to the probable cause statement attached to the search warrant.

The results of those tests have not been released.

According to that document, Mr. Ray was allegedly seen at a 7-Eleven Store at 9767 S. 700 East, after leaving work the night of Feb. 22. An employee at the store told police that he saw Nelson in the store at the same time as his alleged victim. The employee said he noticed both Mr. Ray and Nelson left about the same time.

During a follow-up interview with Nelson, Detective Jeffrey said that the suspect denied involvement in the murder "but admitted that he was familiar with the root cellar where the body was found and, in fact, visited the root cellar frequently . . . , according to the document.



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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

The Salt Lake City Council meets Tuesday under the following agenda:

— Room 211, City-County Building, 5 p.m.; The council's Budget, Finance and Administration Committee will discuss 1982-83 budget recommendations with the Committee on Budget of the Salt Lake Association of Community Councils.

— 5:30 p.m., Report of the council's executive director.

The meeting continues at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Room 301:

Consent Agenda:

— Consider $750,000 industrial revenue bond resolution for Six States Distributing for construction of a warehouse and office facility at 1700 South between 200 West and 300 West.

— Consider a $2 million industrial revenue bond resolution for James D. Easton Inc. for additional warehouse and light manufacturing facilities at 5040 W. Harold Gatty Road in the Salt Lake International Center.

— Consider appointments to Central Business District Advisory Board: Jess Agraz, Kent Money, Stewart Hanson Jr., Richard Schubach, Fred Wheeler, Phyllis Steorts, Clinton Mott, Ronald Carnago and Fred Ball.

Public Hearings:

— 6 p.m., To discuss proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 1982-83, including ordinances increasing city cemetery fees, park reservation fees, parking meter rates, business license fees and excavation fees, and the budget for Federal Revenue Sharing funds.

— 6:30 p.m., To discuss and adopt amendments to the Fiscal Year 1981-82 budget.

'Part-Ute' Keeps Fishing Rights

Federal Judge Bruce S. Jenkins has overturned the conviction of a "mixed-blood" Ute Indian woman for illegally fishing on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, saying since she was once "enrolled" in the tribe, those rights remain hers.

The ruling overturned a misdemeanor conviction of Oranna Bumgarner Felter by U.S. Magistrate Daniel Alsup. Judge Jenkins, U.S. District Court for Utah, ruled that the magistrate, in convicting the woman of illegally fishing at Bottle Hollow, made a "reversible error" that was narrow in scope.

Ms. Felter, Judge Jenkins noted, was "formerly an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe" until Congress terminated mixed-blood Utes in 1954 to reduce federal involvement and expense.

That termination, involving about one-fourth of the tribe as it then existed, "does not mean that someone's identity as an Indian is ended," the judge ruled.

Any Indian enrolled as a tribe member at the time of termination, he said, may still fish and hunt on the reservation, but that right is not inheritable.

"Attrition will eventually extinguish the mixed-blood entitlement," Judge Jenkins said.

What Congress did in terminating mixed-blood Utes was to take away their eligibility for federal services and duties and took away the power of the federal government in managing the affairs of the mixed-blood Indians, the judge ruled.

Attorney Kathryn Collard, who represented Ms. Felter, said the ruling means that hundreds, if not thousands, of mixed-blood Utes will once again fish and hunt on the reservation.

Steve Van Dusen
Sandy

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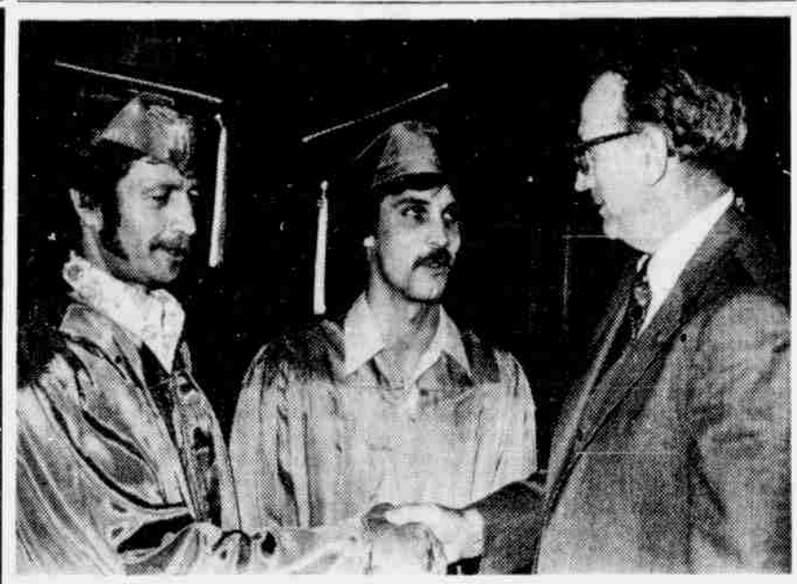

Dr. Walter Talbot, right, congratulates Keith Dever, left, | Scott Aldrich after graduation at South Park Academy.

Others Honored

57 Felons 'Graduate'

Special to The Tribune

DRAPER — Although commencement exercises are being held in nearly every community of any size in this nation, there is no place "I would think they have a greater meaning than here within these walls," Walter D. Talbot, state superintendent of public instruction, said Monday night.

Dr. Talbot was the principal speaker at the 25th annual commencement exercises at the South Park Academy in the Utah State Prison.

"I do know that the steps you have taken to reach this achievement tonight will be helpful for you here and in the future," Dr. Talbot said.

The three most important things those receiving diplomas and certificates have learned through their schooling are:

— That you can learn what you put your mind to.

— That learning and acquiring knowledge are fun and hold satisfaction.

— That learning how to learn is a great step forward in your life and which will aid you throughout the remainder of your life.

High school diplomas were presented to 57 by Mrs. Jane Callister, member of the Jordan School District Board of Education. She also awarded 10 vocational-technical education diplomas; 107 vocational-technical education certificates; 50 adult basic education certificates and 33 General Educational Development certificates.

This compares to a total of 22 diplomas and certificates issued during the first commencement exercises in 1957, Michael D. Jensen, director, department of education at the prison, said.

Representing the graduates was Keith Dever who gave vocational education credit for turning his life around. Although he is still in a halfway house, he is working as a welder.

Mr. Dever said it is his aim to continue his education so that he can someday teach welding.

Scott Aldrich thanked all those who supported him in his quest for the high school diploma which has provided support for continuing his education after his release.

The class was accepted by Kenneth L. Prince, deputy superintendent, Jordan School District.

Vote Denies More Curbs On School Donor Names

By Dave Jonsson
Tribune Staff Writer

By a split vote Monday, the Utah State Records Committee voted not to place further restrictions on public access to records of donors to Utah colleges and universities.

The action means the panel will stay with a decision made last December that allows the release of the names of donors to the public and the press on demand — but keeps as private data the amounts and types of the contributions.

Lt. Gov. David S. Monson, a committee member, made a motion to amend the policy to allow keeping even the names secret if the donors so indicate when they make their contributions, but this motion failed to gain a second and a substitute motion along the same lines failed to gain a majority vote.

Mr. Monson told fellow members he believed there were "some persuasive arguments" to maintaining the December policy, but he said he was "troubled" by college and university officials' complaints that forcing release of donor names would have a stifling effect on the giving of donations.

Attitude of Monson

"I don't want to hurt their ability to raise private funds," Mr. Monson said. H is amendment would have allowed anonymity for the donors, on their request, except where criminal charges were pending.

Attorney General David L. Wilkinson, also a committee member, proposed an alternate motion that would allow anonymity if the donations had been given without any restrictions being imposed as to how the gifts would be used, but not allowing anonymity if the gifts were given "with strings attached."

Committee members didn't even accept this idea, with State Archivist T. Harold Jacobsen, State History Director Melvin T. Smith and State Auditor W. Val Oveson voting it down 3-2.

Mr. Smith said nothing that has happened since the December decision "has reduced my support for the public's right to know" and Mr. Oveson added that he felt the earlier ruling "hasn't damaged the universities and isn't likely to. . . "

KUTV, Inc., through its attorney Patrick Shea, has opposed any limitations on public and press access to donor lists, and Monday Mr. Shea urged committee members not to add any further limitations to current practice.

Refusal by USU Officials

In a recent journalistic investigation, he said, reporters found they couldn't gain the corroboration they needed to be able to report adequately on a land investment scandal because Utah State University refused to confirm or deny the presence of a certain name on the list of school benefactors.

"All we ask is that you allow us to confirm that a donation has been made," Mr. Shea said. The universities have "failed to demonstrate" how damage may be done by the disclosure, he added.

And further, he said, the public should have the right to know who is giving gifts to the institutions because they are public institutions and taxpayers should be able to become aware from whence potential influence on college officials could come.